

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 RANGOON 001187

SIPDIS

STATE ALSO FOR EAP/BCLTV; TREASURY FOR OASIA JEFF NEIL;
USPACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/22/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [BM](#) [ASSK](#)

SUBJECT: ASSK'S HOSPITAL STAY: DAY SIX

REF: RANGOON 1171 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: COM Carmen Martinez for Reasons 1.5 (B,D)

11. (C) Summary: On September 23, ASSK's doctor again briefed diplomats on her post-surgery recovery and reported that biopsy reports indicated tissue removed during the operation was non-malignant, but that surgery had been the only option to address a "pre-cancerous" condition. Over 150 NLD supporters assembled at the hospital today, braving a heavy military intelligence presence with hand-written signs of support for the NLD leader and the pro-democracy movement. The Indonesian Embassy declined to give a briefing to diplomats on the Alatas visit, or to affirm whether the envoy has requested a meeting with ASSK. End summary.

12. (C) In a now daily routine, ASSK's personal physician, Dr. Tin Myo Win, briefed us on September 23 at the Asia Royal Cardiac Hospital where she is recuperating from September 19 surgery. At our request, and that of the British Embassy, diplomats from the French, Italian, German, and Japanese embassies joined us for the briefing. The enlarged diplomatic group drew close scrutiny from SPDC military intelligence officers who filmed the entire briefing.

13. (C) Dr. Tin Myo Win reported that ASSK is eating regular meals and is medically capable of receiving visitors, although he said "no one has yet been allowed to see her, other than her physicians and military liaison officers." The doctor said that many supporters had requested an opportunity to see ASSK, but that as her physician he believed it appropriate for only "one or two special guests" to visit (Note: the doctor's implication was that he believes ASSK would welcome a visit by Indonesian special envoy Alatas, who is currently in Rangoon, and U.N. Special Envoy Razali, who is expected in Burma on September 30. The Italian Ambassador told us that he had contacted the Indonesian Ambassador to seek a briefing on the Alatas visit for E.U. (and U.S.) Embassies. His Indonesian counterpart refused to say whether Alatas has requested a meeting with ASSK and said he would consider giving a briefing on the Alatas visit "after Bali." To this, the Italian Ambassador responded to the Indonesian, "You must be joking." ASSK confidante Leon de Riedmatten told us he got the same reaction from the Indonesian Embassy. End note).

14. (C) Dr. Tin Myo Win told the assembled diplomats that he had received post-surgery biopsy reports, which indicated that the "organ" he had removed was non-malignant. However, he added that he could not determine what specific disease had afflicted ASSK and that surgery had been the only option to address her "pre-cancerous" condition (Note: Dr. Tin Myo Win will not reveal her specific malady, but media and local sources speculate that ASSK had an emergency hysterectomy. End note).

15. (C) Queried whether ASSK would be returned to detention, Dr. Tin Myo Win said he had requested on medical grounds that he have daily access to the NLD leader after she is discharged from the hospital. He added that this would be most easily accomplished at her home compound, but that this decision would be made by the "authorities."

16. (C) Over 150 NLD supporters were peacefully assembled today in front of the hospital while the diplomats met across the street with ASSK's doctor (in the same automotive repair shop used for previous briefings; see ref tel). Most of the supporters were holding small signs that wished ASSK a speedy recovery, although several held photos of the democracy leader and signs written in English that read "Freedom from All Pain." (Note: Traditionally, such minor expressions of protest have resulted in detention and long prison sentences. End note.)

17. (C) Comment: We believe that ASSK's doctor is quietly attempting to convince the SPDC to transfer her to house arrest, rather than return her to detention at an undisclosed military compound. Although our ultimate objective is her complete release, house arrest would be a small step in the right direction toward her eventual freedom. End comment.
Martinez